



CITY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

Monday, February 23, 2009

Council Office

4:30 pm

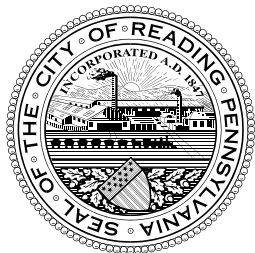
Agenda

- I. WWTP Project 4:30 pm
Solids Handling
6th and Canal Pumping Station
- II. Reading Buccaneers 5:00 pm
- III. Blue Ribbon Panel 5:30 pm
 - 1. Selection of panelists
 - 2. Panel Issues & Focus Areas
- IV. Agenda Review 6:00 pm
Tabled legislation from February 9th meeting:

Resolution 12-2009 - Authorizing the submission of the attached PaDEP Grantee Agreement for Bushong Mill Dam, across the Tulpehocken Creek, upstream from the confluence with the Schuylkill River (**Public Works**)

Award of Contract – to Hazen and Sawyer to perform stormwater utility analysis at a price of \$199,800 (**Public Works**)

Bill No. 7-2009 – increasing the salary of the Police Chief to \$108,957.13, a 4% increase, per annum retroactive to January 23, 2009 (**Managing Director**) *Introduced at the January 26 regular meeting; tabled at the February 9 regular meeting*



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
February 9, 2009
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

V. Spencer, S. Fuhs, D. Sterner, J. Waltman, S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, R. Hottenstein, T. McMahon

Mr. Spencer, President of Council, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

I. Executive Session

Council entered into executive session at 4:44 pm to discuss litigation. Council exited executive session at 6:35 pm.

II. Blue Ribbon Panel

Mr. Fuhs left the meeting at this time.

Chris Kanezo and Mr. Jones joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Spencer noted Council's need to name their representatives to the Panel.

Mr. Waltman questioned if the Panel would be reporting to the Administration, Council, or the Finance Committee. Mr. Spencer stated that the Panel would bring their recommendations for all to review.

Mr. Waltman requested that the Finance Committee provide the Panel with background information and direction.

Mr. Spencer noted that the Mayor's representatives are ready to begin the work. He stated that Council not naming their representatives is wasting time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated her belief that the Panel also needs to understand the Charter form of government and the role of Council.

III. Agenda Review

Council was asked to add an award of contract to the Consent Agenda for the analysis of the stormwater utility.

Mr. Waltman questioned what other cities charge for this utility. Mr. Jones noted no city in Pennsylvania currently charges for this utility but that many do nationwide.

Mr. Waltman questioned if the impact to business has been reviewed. He stated his belief that he would rather spend this money on a study of the City's information technology needs. He requested that this be voted on separately and not as part of the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Spencer questioned when the City acquired the Bushong Mill dam. Mr. Jones stated that the City acquired the dam during the condemnation of an adjoining property and did not realize it owned the dam until contacted by PA DEP. He stated that the dam needs to be removed.

Mr. Spencer stated his belief that the City was notified that it would need to be repaired or removed. Mayor McMahon reminded all of the PA DEP's dislike of dams.

Mr. Spencer stated his belief that there is little chance of this dam collapsing. He noted the major impact that will be felt upstream from the dam after its removal. He questioned why the City would remove the dam if it is unnecessary. He did note the liability issues of people falling off the dam. Mr. Jones stated that there are some very dangerous spots along the dam where the mill race remains. He stated that people regularly walk out onto the dam for fishing. He noted that this resolution allows engineers to be hired to analyze the effects upstream.

Mr. Spencer questioned the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Jones stated that it allows the Berks County Conservancy to apply for a grant for an engineer to create a demolition plan.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that it is important to study the effects upstream to know the impact of the removal. She questioned if Council will need to take further action to authorize the removal of the dam after the plan has been created. Mr. Jones noted that this permission to remove the dam would be needed.

Mr. Spencer questioned the agility agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Jones stated that this needs to be done every five years. The agreement states that the City does the plowing of State roads and highways inside City limits and in return can request additional PennDOT services such as

signage and equipment use.

Mr. Spencer informed Council of the Mayor's response to questions about the Gun Safety Coordinator concerning benefits and unemployment. He stated that the City will not be paying benefits and will not be liable for unemployment compensation. Mayor McMahon stated that this will be pass through position.

Council will table the Ordinance raising the salary of the Police Chief.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

By: _____
Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

R e s o l u t i o n N o . _____

The Council of the City of Reading hereby resolves as follows:

To establish and empower a Blue Ribbon Panel to review the City's Comprehensive Plan and to review the function and operations of the City's Finance Department and City Auditor's Office.

The Blue Ribbon Panel will be a team of no less than nine and no more than thirteen; seven members will be appointed by City Council and the remaining members will be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of Council. The Blue Ribbon Panel will be assisted by the City's Managing Director, or his designee, the City Auditor, or his designee and 2 representatives of City Council, selected by the President of Council.

The Blue Ribbon Panel asked to undertake the following tasks:

- By June 1, 2009 provide feedback to City Council and the Administration on issues identified by the Administration and City Council., and
- By August 1, 2009 provide a report on the operation and function of the City's Finance Department to City Council and the Administration, including suggestions that will improve efficiency, and
- By October 1, 2009 provide a report on the operation and function of the City Auditor's Office to City Council and the Administration, including suggestions that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this office.

Adopted by Council on _____, 2009

Vaughn D. Spencer
President of Council

Attest:

Linda A. Kelleher
City Clerk